Amateur Radio Newsline™ Report 1344 – May 16, 2003

The following is a closed circuit advisory. Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1344 will follow.

Ladies and gentlemen, Amateur Radio Newsline's support fund administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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I want to begin by saying thank-you to all of those who have contributed so far to keeping these Amateur Radio Newsline reports coming your way. As I said a few weeks ago, to continue bringing you the news and to continue to honor the accomplishments of youthful radio amateurs with the Young Ham of the Year Award, we have to raise about $1000 a month. I am happy to tell you that thanks to your generosity, we are now about 20% of the way to that goal. That's the good news. The bad is that we still have 80% of the way to go and the bills keep coming in.

I know that I have said this before but I have to again. The bottom line is that you, and only you keep all of this going. Its your tax deductible contributions that pay the cost of producing and distributing Amateur Radio Newsline bulletins. Its your generosity that makes possible the honor bestowed on a young ham operator every August.

Without any doubt, you are the most important part of the Amateur Radio Newsline family because it is you who tell us through your contributions that you want us to continue. And for that we are eternally grateful.

Remember, Amateur Radio Newsline is a federal 501 c 3, not for profit corporation, and, as I said earlier, your contributions are tax deductible. Our address is the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. Newscast number 1344 follows immediately.

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Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1344 with a release date of Thursday, May 15th 2003 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The tornadoes of May continue as ham radio lends a hand and the doors open at Hamvention 2003. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1344 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: THE TORNADOES OF MAY CONTINUE

According to statics, May 4th through the 10th, 2003 was the most active week of tornadoes on record. This, as scores of twisters ripped across the nation's midsection, reducing hundreds of homes and businesses to splinters. We have

more on the storms and the part ham radio played in the aftermath in this report.

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It was a busy week for ARES and RACES volunteers across the nations mid-section. Nearly 300 tornadoes have been reported since the beginning of May. That’s nearly 100 more than the most recent comparable outbreak in 1999. And so far, May 4th to the 10th has been the most volatile time of all.

Tornadoes have been everywhere from Oklahoma and Kansas to the West and to Alabama and Tennessee here on the south. And ham radio operators have been on the job as severe weather spotters looking for approaching storms. They have also been part of the clean-up effort after they have hit.

Among the groups using ham radio is the Salvation Army. Its website says that nine emergency disaster vehicles were set up in Kansas and Western Missouri following twisters that hit there. Its communications arm -- the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network was dispatched to each location to assist using Amateur Radio channels.

One twister that struck the Oklahoma City area late Friday the 9th approached the metropolitan area from the southwest, then skipped through the city. This storm snapped utility poles, flipped a light airplane parked at a local airport and ripped apart an elementary school. It also knocked out a lot of telephone communications bringing out emergency trained ham radio operators to fill in.

Not long after this tornado hit, the Federal Communications Commission declared a general communications emergency for the Oklahoma area. United States Amateurs were told that they could not use 3 point 900 MHz, plus or minus 3 kHz, unless they were handling emergency traffic. The FCC said the declaration was in support of ham radio communications by the Salvation Army's tornado relief efforts. The ban was in force for about 24 hours, terminating at 22:30 on Saturday May 10th.

And on Saturday, May 10th, the weather service posted more tornado warnings for parts of Indiana, Missouri and Illinois. And the Storm Prediction Center said severe thunderstorms were likely from eastern Oklahoma to western Ohio. In northeastern Kentucky, at least 17 people were treated at hospitals and more than two dozen homes were damaged Saturday night after a tornado hit in Lewis and Mason counties near Maysville. This put already weary ham radio communicators back on alert once again. Adding to the misery, torrential downpours flooded streets and fields in Indiana put hams there on call as well.

But it was not over yet. Storms with wind speeds of up to 150 mph hit parts of Central Kentucky early Sunday the 11th. Homes were damaged in Hardin, Hart and Mercer counties. Retired ARRL President George Wilson, W4OYI, who lives in Owensboro Kentucky says that there were two siren alerts indicating severe weather was on its way. He says that local hams involved in storm spotting duties geared up under the leadership of Emergency Coordinator Jake Jennings, KG4EMO. Thankfully, no twisters actually hit but one was spotted around midnight causing one of the alarms.

Severe weather alert systems and ham radio operators involved in ARES and RACES may be in for quite a work out in the days to come. This is because meteoreologists say that the 2003 tornado season is really just beginning.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, in New Orleans.

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President Bush has cleared the way for federal aid by issuing a disaster declaration for ravaged areas of Tennessee, Kansas, and Missouri Oklahoma. The tornadoes combined with straight-line wind, lightning and floods to caused 44 deaths from Kansas to Georgia. (ARNewsline™)

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HAMVENTION 2003®: HAMVENTION WANTS TO STAY AT HARA!

The 2003 Dayton Hamvention is on and the big news is that it wants to stay where it is. Amateur Radio Newsline's producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has that story:

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The Hamvention wants to stay at the Hara Arena. So says the Dayton Daily News which reports that Hamvention organizers are in negotiations for a two-year contract to comtinue using the Trotwood Ohio facility. My colleague Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, has that part of the story:

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The Dayton Daily News article Bill refereed to quotes Hamvention production manager Garry Matthews, KB8GOL. He says that organizers are pleased with Hara Arena and want to keep the show in the area. Also, that no other local venue can comfortably hold Hamvention at its current size. This says Matthews, makes a move unlikely.

A story in the May 2nd ARRL Letter said exhibitors would prefer the show to be held in Columbus if Hara wasn't available. Indianapolis and Cincinnati were also listed as possible sites.

When asked by the Dayton Daily News, Matthews said that the article doesn't mean Hamvention organizers are looking for another site. But says KB8GOL, organizers do have contingency plans that would move the convention elsewhere if Hara couldn't host it.

Will Hamvention 2004 be at the HARA Arena? We should know more by Sunday the 18th when Hamvention 2003 comes to an end.

I'm Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ. Bill.

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Thanks Henry.

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HAMVENTION 2003®: SOCIAL HOUR WILL HONOR AWARD WINNERS

Now turning to the social side of Hamvention 2003 -- and after all -- the Hamvention is a major social event -- there is some very good news. Seemingly taking a cue from the highly successful ham radio cocktail hour at the National Association of Broadcasters convention, the Hamvention will host a similar gathering this year. As Hamvention General Chairman Pat Neff, N8IGS, told RAIN's Hap Holly, KC9RP, this gathering is to honor the Hamventions award winners:

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Neff: "Theres going to a an award winners reception at HARA on Saturday. Its going to start at I believe 6' o'clock and it will be within two of the largest forum rooms that will be converted. But its only going to have a capacity of about 450 people."

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In addition to drinks and horderves what else can those buying tickets to this gathering expect?

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The award winners will be giving acceptance speaches there and, like I say, its going to be an informal to-do that will allow the average attendee to be able to possibly get to talk with the award winners as well.

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Neff says that the decision to hold the reception at the Hara Arena came as the result of feedback from past Hamvention attendees. Many said it was hard to spend the day at the show and then travel across town for a banquet. With the banquet now history and an informal reception at the Hara taking its place, those wanting to attend need only buy a ticket and hang around. We will.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF.

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Amateur Radio Newsline has a team of reporters in Dayton and will provide full covering of Hamvention 2003. (ARNewsline™)

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Break 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Hamvention repeater, W8BI, serving Dayton Ohio.

(5 sec pause here)

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HAMVENTION 2003®: BIG HAPPENINGS IN DX

Still with Hamvention news, this years D-X forum should be one of the better ones in recent histoey. So says moderator Jay Slough, K4ZLE, who adds that the scheduled speakers are a really impressive line up. For instasnce, Daily D-X Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, will be talking on the recent AH3D operation. And Al Hernandez, K3VN on hand with the ZL7C story. The ARRL's Wayne Mills, N7NG with a DXCC update, and if thats not enough, Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW, will be on hand to present the Northern Ohio DX Association Award for the 2002 DXpedition of the Year. It looks like there will be something for everyone at Hamvention 2003. (OPDX)

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RADIO LAW: HR-1478 GETS SUPPORT FROM CQ MAGAZINE

CQ Magazine has joined the ARRL in asking hams to support House Bill HR-1478. This is the measure re-introduced by New York Congressman Steve Israel to expand the limited protections of "PRB-1" to homeowners' associations and restrictive covenants.

According to the ARRL, the 2002 version of the bill died without action. The new bill initially had 13 co-sponsors from both parties including the only two known hams in Congress. They are identified as Representative Greg Walden, WB7OCE, of Oregon and Representative Mike Ross, WD5DVR, of Arkansas.

The ARRL and CQ are both now encouraging amateurs to contact their representatives in Congress to request that they support and even co-sponsor the bill. (CQ)

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ENFORCEMENT: PIRATE BROADCASTER SENTENCED TO JAIL

A Florida pirate broadcaster will spend the next nine months in a federal prison. This is the sentence handed down by United States Magistrate David A. Baker against Rayon Sherwin "Junior" Payne.

Payne's conviction is the result of an investigation that began in February of 1999. About that time the Commission's Tampa Office began receiving complaints from residents and broadcasters in Orlando of interference to the reception of licensed broadcast stations. The investigation lead them to Payne's unlicensed station after which he was charged with multiple counts of operating an unlicensed FM radio facility.

Payne pleaded guilty to two of the counts before Magistrate Baker who also sentenced him to one year supervised release in addition to the jail time. Once he is released Payne must perform 50 hours of community service and must not violate any Federal, State or Local laws of the Communications Act of 1934.

The FCC announced the sentence on Monday May 12th. The case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: AN EXPENSIVE LESSON FOR MICHIGAN HAM

The FCC has told a ham to pay a $12,000 fine for willful and repeated interference, broadcasting of music and failing to identify with his call sign. Being ordered to pay is Scott E. Kamm, N0UGN, currently of Souix City Iowa but who had his statiion licensed to the town of Waterbury Nebraska when he was first cited.

As previously reported, last December the FCC T-hunted down a strong signal on the input to a local repeater to Kamm's Waterbury Nebraska residence. Agents then performed a station inspection where they found a two meter transciever set to the repeaters frequecy pair. But Kamm denied any knowledge of the jamming, telling the inspectors that he never transmitted on the system and that the radio gear was used for monitoring purposes only.

But the FCC refused to buy Kamm's story. On January 24th of this year the regulatory agency issued Kamm a Notice of Aparenlt Liability in the amount of $12,000. Kamm never responded to it. And so a few days ago on May 7th the FCC affirmed its earlier order and gave Kamm 30 days tio pay up. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: $2400 FINE FOR UNREGISTERED TOWER

The FCC has also issued a $2400 a monetary forfeiture to Morris Communications, Inc. of Greenville, South Carolina for failing to register an antenna structure. The FCC calls this one a willful violation of Section 17.4(a) of the Commission's Rules.

On July 8, 2002, the Atlanta Office issued Morris a $3,000 forfeiture notice for failing to register its antenna structure in willful violation. In its response, Morris admits that its tower was not registered, but argued that the forfeiture should be rescinded because it did not "willfully" violate the rules.

Morris claims that it made two good faith attempts to register the structure in 1999, but the Commission first rejected its application on erroneous grounds and later returned it without explanation.

But says the FCC, the Rules provides that, effective July 1, 1996, the owner of any proposed or existing antenna structure that requires notification to the Federal Aviation Administration must register the structure with the Commission. Abother section of the Rules provides that the owner of an antenna structure that had been assigned painting or lighting requirements prior to July 1, 1996 must have registered the structure prior to July 1, 1998.

Morris admits that its Adrian tower was not registered at the time of the inspection on May 7, 2002. Accordingly, the FCC says that that Morris violated the Rules and has ordered it to pay the fine. The entire fionding is on-line at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-03-1366A1.doc (FCC)

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RADIO RULES: FCC RESOLVES COMMERCIAL BROADCAST SPECTRUM ISSUE

The FCC has released new procedures to allocate and license the commercial F-M broadcast band. This, where conflicting commercial and noncommercial uses are

proposed. Since most new F-M and T-V channels can be used for commercial purposes and would be affected by non-commercial proposals, the CGC Communicator says that this decision may have widespread implications. (CGC)

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RADIO RULES: FAA TO SEND CLEARANCE DATA TO FCC ELECTRONICALLY

According to a Primedia trade publication, the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Aviation Administration have announced that tower and antenna airspace clearance data from the FAA will now be transferred electronically to the FCC. This will enable the Commission to process antenna structure registration applications faster and more accurately, and will save staff time at both ends. The electronic transfer of data is also expected to reduce the time it takes to get this information into the FCC's database from one to two weeks to only one day. More information is opn the web at http://beradio.com/ar/radio_currents_24/index.htm#tower1 (CGC)

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HAM RADIO PUBLICITY: NPR FEATURES “HELLO WORLD - A LIFE IN HAM RADIO”

Tom Walsh, K1TW, reports over the Internet that National Public Radio featured ham radio in a recent Talk of the Nation segment. Walsh says that the final 15 minutes of the two hour program on April 30th was devoted to the new book "Hello World - A life in Ham Radio” and even featured callers including someone who is a QSL manager.

Tom says that you can still hear the program. Just taker your web browser to the National Public Radio archives and bring up the April 30 version of Talk of the Nation. Go to the second hour, find the last 15 minutes, turn your speakers up and enjoy. The URL is www.npr.org/programs/totn/index.html>http://www.npr.org/programs/totn/index.html (K1TW, K1KI, others)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: W9GIG TO DEPART THE IRA

ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, says that he will not stand for re-election to an official position within the Illinois Repeater Association. Isley has been a guising force within the repeater council for years.

It was Isley’s guidence that helped to create the National Frequency Coordinators Committee several years ago. He has also served with ther Illinois Repeater Associuation for many years and has become a main stay in the repeater coordination community.

According to his departure announcement, the decision to stand-down has nothing directly to do with his position within the ARRL but he says that does want to put more of his time toward League matters. Isley says that he has thoroughly enjoyed working for the Illinois Repeater Association but feels that it is time that new people step up to leadership positions. He also wished the group

continued success in its work of providing efficient and fair Amateur Radio repeater frequency coordination to the hams of Illinois. (Via E-Mail)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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THE IRAQ WAR: WHO IS ACCEPTING WHAT POST-CONFLICT OPERATIONS

With the war in Iraq now just about over, both CQ and the ARRL are accepting certain operations from that nation for their DX award programs. But there are some differences. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has that part of the story:

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PKG HERE
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Most observers believe that the situation regarding ham radio in Iraq is very fluid and criteria for operations will change. (ARRL, CQ, others)

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INTERNATIONAL - AUSTRALIA: NEW 23 CM BEACON

VK4RTL experimental 23 centimeter beacon on air neat Townsville Australia. It weent on the air on 21st April on 1296.444 MHz at Mount Stuart for a trial run. Q-News reports that this mighty little beacon puts out a massive 2.5watts and can be heard on most modern tri-band handhelds around Townsville and Thuringowa. Reception and range reports go to vk4wit@wia.org.au (Q-News)

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INTERNATIONAL - CANADA: CANADIAN SPECIAL PREFIXES.

Industry Canada has authorized the use of "Special Event Prefixes" between May 24th and July 27th to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Library of Canada. The special prefixes are C-K for all V-E's, C-J for all V-A's, C-Y for all V-Oh's and C-Z for all V-Y's. The special prefixes will therefore be available for use in the upcoming C-Q W-P-X C-W Contest on May 24 and 25th.

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INTERNATIONAL - ITALY: WOULD YOU LIKE TO FLY IN MY BALLOON

Remember the 1970's song Up-up and Away by the 5th Dimension? Well a ham

radio group in Italy has come up with a 21st century Amateur Radio version of just such an event.

The Milan Chapter of the Italian Amateur Radio Society says that its planning a manned Amateur Radio Balloning Experiment to take to the sky on Saturday, May 17th from Mantova Airport. Operating on 144.330 Mhz upper sideband, the in-flight operation is slated to begin between 08:00 to 09:00 U-T-C and last between 1 and 3 hours. A-P-R-S will be used to track the balloon during the time its aloft.

More information on the flight is the groups wesite. That information appears on the groups website at www.arimi.it/rubriche/arbe.html (IT2SAI)

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ON THE AIR: GRID CIRCLEING ROVERS WANTED

N9REP says over the VHF Reflector that the K9RN VHF Contest Group is now accepting applications for captive rovers during the June VHF/UHF contest. Wendell says that the terrain in and around grid square EN52 is very rugged and harsh and that the first requirement for rovers is a vehicle capable of handling any on-or-off road QSO task, particularly regarding grid circling.

Any team wishing to be a captive rover must supply their own approved vehicle. A list of vehicle manufacturers that appear to meet all of the demanding Rover specifications is at www.maximog.com (VHF Relector)

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DX

In DX, word that the make-up of the CY9 DXpedition team is now complete and the operation will take place from July 24th to August 2nd. The team members are N0RN, N5VL, W0IZ, KO4RR, K5AAH, K5AB and VE7SV. They will be taking with them a Battle Creek Special and will operate on the low bands during all openings. Callsign will be given either at the beginning of the operation or shortly before. QSL via N5VL. (OPDX)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: ITS T-HUNT TIME

And finally this wee, do you like hidden transmitter hunting? If you do then this one is for you. Here’s Joe Moell, K0OV, has the latest information on the World Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championship games that are coming up.

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Who are the best transmitter hunters in the country? That's what we'll find out when the Third USA ARDF Championships get under way near Cincinnati, Ohio on July 30. The sponsors, OH-KY-IN ARC and the Cincinnati Orienteering Club, promise two challenging radio-orienteering courses. One will be on two meters, and the other on 80 meters. This is a test of individuals, and it's all on foot. You'll have five transmitters to find each day, negotiating your way through the forest with your map, compass and direction-finding gear. If you

can walk or jog a 10 km racecourse, you have the stamina to complete an ARDF event. If you're a senior citizen, don't worry about being trounced by teenagers, because there are a total of nine age categories, five for men and boys, four for women and girls.

This year, the USA Championships are an international event, combined with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 ARDF Championships. If past events are any indication, there will be plenty of international experts in the sport on hand, so you'll have a chance to learn foxtailing tips and techniques from the very best. Positions on ARDF Team USA to next year's World Championships in the Czech Republic are open, so perhaps you can earn a spot for yourself. We're looking for good candidates in all age/gender categories, so encourage your kids and grandkids to give it a try.

For the most intense experience, stay in the dorms at Miami University of Ohio, in close contact with the other competitors. But space is limited, so now is the time to make plans. You can stay elsewhere nearby if you like. In either case, time is getting short, so get registered at the Championships Web site: www.ardfusa.com That's ardfusa.com

For lots more on foxhunting, including equipment ideas and techniques, go to www.homingin.com. Read about past USA Championships and get a link to this year's. That's one word "homingin" --- homingin.com.

>From southern California, where there's some kind of transmitter hunt almost every weekend, this is Joe Moell, Kay-zero-Oscar-Victor, for Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Don’t worry if you missed those websites Joe mentioned. You will find them I the print edition of this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (K0OV, ARNewsline™)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline @arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go, a reminder that the nominating period for the 2003 amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year closes May 30th. Nominees must be 18 or younger. Full rules and a fill-in-the-blank electronic application are at our new special website at www.yhoty.org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the Editors Desk, I’m Norm Seeley, KI7UP, saying 73 and we thank you for listening. Amateur Radio Newsline is copyright 2003 and all rights are reserved.